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Classified, mounted, and, so to say, illustrated by modern examples of the same flowers and plants, they fill eleven cases—a collection absolutely unique, and likely ever to remain so. The hues of these Old World flowers are said to be as brilliant as those of their modern prototypes; and, but for the labels which show them to be three thousand years apart, no ordinary observer could distinguish between those which were buried with the Pharaohs and those which were gathered and dried only a few months ago.—*Academy*, Sept. 23rd 1882, quoted by Trimen's *Journal of Botany*.

Botanical Literature.

Symbolae Licheno-Mycologicae. Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Grenzen zwischen Flechten und Pilzen, von Dr. Arthur Minks. Zweiter Theil. 8vo. pp. 273. Kassel u. Berlin: Theodor Fischer, 1882.

This second volume of the laborious work of Dr. Minks is now published, and commends itself to botanists interested in the often undisputedly questionable relations of what have heretofore been taken for discomycetous and pyrenomycetous Fungi to Lichens, as a most carefully elaborated, and wholly new contribution to their history. The difficulty of this author's later writings recurs indeed here, that they presuppose an exceptional ability of microscopical manipulation, and an acquaintance with very minute structure which, in the field he occupies, no one perhaps fully shares with him; but it is not easy to believe that a genuine interest in the plants he investigates (to a considerable extent North American) can be satisfied without estimating the value of his results. The old reverence for species as ideal centres, which it was the naturalist's task to seek amid the boundless luxuriance of difference in nature, has been shaken, to say the least, by the prepossessions engendered by Darwin's thought; and the hosts ever-growing of "n. spp." with which the very existence, as scientific disciplines, of the classes brought together in thallophytal botany is threatened, find but scant opposition; yet surely no one can question that a competent and sincere attempt to exhaust the structural history of an obscure organism is worth vastly more than any diagnosis of it. That is no sufficient estimate of the systematist's toils which would reduce their result to a mere ticketing of natural objects, the largely accidental and arbitrary character of which work, in whatever hands, can only be relieved in so far as it is possible to confine it to the most experienced inquirers, to be accepted, in good part no doubt blindly, by the rest. But is there not more than this in the study of the system of nature? And can such study be really scientific if it content itself without taking account of the observations and results, and the criticism of genera and species of so honest and thorough-going, whether or not now, like all others mistaken an investigator as Minks?—E. TUCKERMAN.

SERIAL PUBLICATIONS.

Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Science. Vol. iii., Part ii. (August.)—'Contributions to the Flora of Iowa,' by J. C. Arthur; 'Two new Species of *Oxytheca*' (*O. caryophylloides* and *O. Parishii*), by C. C. Parry.

Grevillea (September).—‘Monograph of the British Hypomycetes’ (2 plates), by C. B. Plowright; ‘On the Heteroecism of the Uredines,’ by C. B. Plowright; ‘New British Fungi,’ by M. C. Cooke; ‘Fungi Macowaniana,’ by C. Kalchbrenner; ‘Australian Fungi,’ by M. C. Cooke; ‘Three new Indian Fungi,’ by M. J. Berkeley.

Proceedings of the Torrey Club.—The regular meeting of the Club was held Tuesday, Sept. 12th, the President in the chair and twenty-five persons present.

Mr. Hollick exhibited and remarked upon some sports in ferns, and a specimen of *Lilium Philadelphicum* in which one of the stamens was replaced by a sepal; and also showed a specimen of *Hepatica* in which the involucre was excessively developed.

Mr. Britton remarked upon some recent additions to the flora of New Jersey, and called attention to some new stations for a few of the rarer forms.

Heterophylly in the Beech.—The President showed specimens of two forms of leaves taken from a beech-tree, one of them being normal and the other deeply incised like those of the variety *incisa* of arboriculturists.

Mr. J. D. Hyatt exhibited a section of the bark and wood of a hemlock, showing on the inner surface of the wood reversed copies in relief of marks made on the tree by surveyors forty years ago. (Described more in detail on another page).

Mr. Schrenk remarked upon the plants found by him during the summer on Mt. Washington.

Dr. Barstow extended an invitation to the Club to visit his residence at Flushing on the 16th to partake of a luncheon.

Two names were proposed for active membership,

At the regular meeting of the Club held Tuesday evening, Oct. 10th, the President occupied the chair and fourteen persons were present.

In the absence of the Librarian, Mr. Gerard read the titles of the books and periodicals which had been sent to the Club since the previous meeting.

The President exhibited a small but tastefully arranged collection of Pacific coast algæ, mounted on very large cardboard, a gift from Dr. G. W. Hulse to the Torrey Herbarium. Among the specimens included was one of *Nereocystis lustrarum* 60 feet in length. The President in showing the collection made some interesting remarks on the characteristics and economic uses of the plants represented.

A late-flowering Shrub.—Mr. Bower showed some specimens, from his garden, of *Staphylea trifolia*, L., bearing both fruit and flowers.

Dr. Geo. Vasey, of the Agricultural Department, being present, read upon invitation a paper on ‘Three Hybrid Oaks near Washington,’ which will be published in a future number of the BULLETIN.

Three persons were elected active members.